

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 8 (canceled)

1 9. (Currently amended) A method for desalinating salt-
2 containing water, which comprises the steps of:

3 (a) passing salt-containing water through a heat
4 exchanger disposed in a basin containing solar-heated brine formed
5 by several layers of water lying one above the other in the basin,
6 each of said layers of water forming the brine having a higher salt
7 content than the layer present there above, wherein the heat
8 exchanger is disposed in the lowermost layer of water having a
9 higher temperature than the temperature of the layers of water
10 lying above the lowermost layer of water;

11 (b) heating the salt-containing water in the basin using
12 indirect heat exchange with the solar-heated brine to obtain heated
13 salt-containing water;

14 (c) evaporating at least part of the heated salt-
15 containing water to obtain water vapor; [[and]]

16 (d) condensing the water vapor to obtain desalinated
17 water [[:]]; and

18 (e) passing the desalinated water through a second heat
19 exchanger disposed in a pit holding the salt-containing water to be
20 desalinated, to pre-heat the salt-containing water in the pit by
21 indirect heat exchange with the desalinated water, and supplying

22 the pre-heated salt-containing water to the heat exchanger disposed
23 in the basin according to step (a).

Claims 10, 11 and 12 (canceled)

1 13. (Previously presented) The method for desalinating
2 salt-containing water defined in claim 9 wherein according to step
3 (d) the water vapor is condensed in a condenser, in which a cooler
4 for supplying cool air is connected to the condenser.

1 14. (Previously presented) A method for desalinating
2 salt-containing water, which comprises the steps of:

3 (a) passing salt-containing water through a heat
4 exchanger disposed in a basin containing solar-heated brine formed
5 by several layers of water lying one above the other in the basin,
6 each of said layers of water forming the brine having a higher salt
7 content than the layer present there above, wherein the heat
8 exchanger is disposed in the lowermost layer of water forming the
9 brine having a higher temperature than the temperature of the
10 layers of water forming the brine lying above the lowermost layer
11 of water and wherein the brine in the basin contains a lower level
12 of water having a salt content of $\pm 24\%$, a middle layer of water
13 having a salt content of $\pm 15\%$ and an upper layer of water having a
14 salt content of $\pm 0-4\%$;

15 (b) heating the salt-containing water in the basin using
16 indirect heat exchange with the solar-heated brine to obtain heated
17 salt-containing water;

18 (c) evaporating at least part of the heated salt-
19 containing water to obtain water vapor; and

20 (d) condensing the water vapor to obtain desalinated
21 water.

1 15. (Previously presented) The method for desalinating
2 salt-containing water defined in claim 14 wherein each of the
3 layers of water is formed to a height of ± 1 m.

Claims 16 to 18 (canceled)